

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6243
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
AIDS VACCINE
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to initiate a project to develop a vaccine against AIDS;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to ensure the ethical and social transparency of the vaccine trials;
- (c) whether the Government are seeking cooperation from the pharmaceutical companies in developing the vaccine; and
- (d) if so, the present status of the project?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA to accelerate the efforts to develop an AIDS Vaccine appropriate for use in India. The Government of India and IAVI agreement is based on a commitment to partnerships and transparency in vaccine trials and development of vaccine. The researchers will strictly adhere to ethical guidelines approved by Indian Council of Medical Research. In order to ensure complete transparency in AIDS vaccine research and development, an Advisory Group has been constituted which includes scientists, doctors, gender experts, epidemiologists, economists, representatives of people living with HIV/AIDS, legal experts, media, and NGOs.

(c) & (d) Government would seek cooperation of pharmaceutical companies in developing the vaccine only when the suitable candidate(s) is developed and tested rigorously for its safety and efficacy.